

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 95

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Bev Johnson upon her induction into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of the members of the General Assembly to recognize those individuals who utilize the powerful medium of radio broadcast to provide both entertainment and information to the citizens of our State; and

WHEREAS, Bev Johnson is one such individual, who will be inducted into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame on August 3, 2019; and

WHEREAS, a radio broadcaster for forty-two years, Ms. Johnson began her career in 1976 at WJSU Radio, which led her to WOKJ, WJMI, and WKXI in Jackson, Mississippi, where she worked as a disc jockey, programming assistant, public affairs director, and news director; and

WHEREAS, Bev Johnson worked at WLOK, WMQM, and WWEE/WLVS in Memphis before joining the legendary WDIA Radio, where she has been employed for thirty-five years; her highly-rated talk show, "The Bev Johnson Show," is in its thirty-first year on 1070 WDIA; and

WHEREAS, born in Memphis, Beverly Elaine Johnson received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Rust College in 1975 and her Master of Science degree in Educational/Media Technology from Jackson State University in 1979; she has also received certification in substance abuse counseling from Southwest Tennessee Community College and certification in drug court counseling from the Drug Court Institute in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated professional, Bev Johnson is a motivational speaker as well as an instructor at Southwest Tennessee Community College, where she has taught speech and writing for twenty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, ever committed to giving back to her community, Bev Johnson is a former mentor for the Gordon Elementary School girls' program and former board member of The Rock 'n' Soul Museum, the National Black Programmers Coalition, and Memphis City Beautiful; she has served as chairperson for the NAACP's annual Radiothon and auctioneer for WKNO Television's Action Auction and the Memphis Chapter Coalition of 100 Black Women; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, Ms. Johnson was named News/Public Affairs Director of the Year four times by the National Black Programmers Coalition and is the recipient of the UNCF Outstanding Alumnus Award; she was named the Billboard Personality of the Year and is a three-time nominee for the National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award, Personality of the Year; and

WHEREAS, she was inducted into The History Makers Media Division in 2014, and her oral history is hosted in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson exemplifies the spirit and dedication that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Bev Johnson has contributed greatly to the radio broadcasting heritage of this State, and it is most fitting that she be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Bev Johnson upon her induction into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.